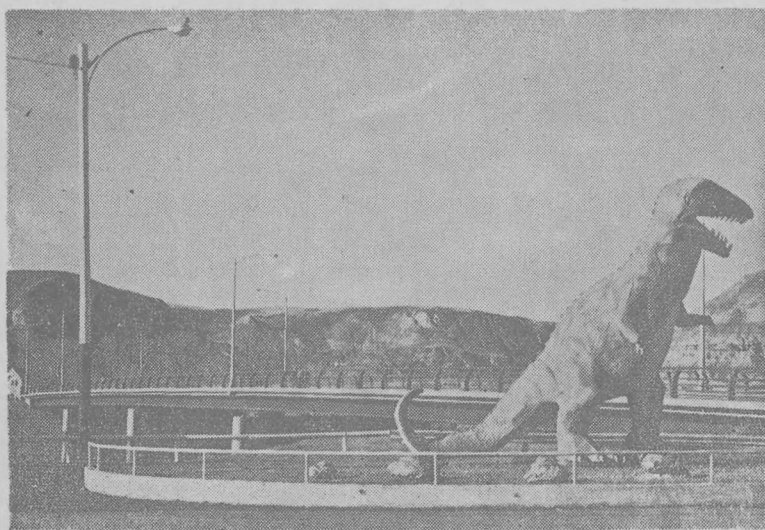


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**DRUMHELLER**

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# VALLEY OF THE DINOSAURS

Prepared by DR. W. R. READ

A visitor approaching the city of Drumheller is suddenly confronted by a mile wide valley where the Red Deer river has excavated below the prairies of Central Alberta to a depth of nearly four hundred feet. Travelling from Calgary via No. 9 Highway the first intimation of an abrupt change in terrain occurs at Horseshoe canyon lookout ten miles south-west of the city of Drumheller. Horseshoe Canyon is only tributary to the Red Deer valley and the scenery here is but a preview of the magnificent vistas that await in the main canyon between Drumheller and Trochu ferry. The grandeur of the multi-coloured, sculptured walls of the valley, as viewed from the Dinosaur trail between Drumheller and Munson ferry, is unexcelled elsewhere in Canada. Here are the world famous Badlands of Alberta.

The Red Deer Valley is the result of erosion. The Red Deer river has required only a few thousand years to carve the badlands, but in the process it has revealed a chapter in the history of the earth that was written in the rocks seventy-five million years ago and when deciphered by geologists rivals the best of science fiction.

## FOSSILS LIFT THE VEIL OF TIME

Life on our earth has passed through many stages between its birth in the remote past and its present day expression. Great races of creatures arose and flourished for many millions of years and became extinct leaving only their remains as mute evidence of their existence. These remains are called fossils and they comprise bones and tracks of ancient animals, as well as impressions of leaves and petrified wood buried in the rocks of the earth's crust.

Although fossil remains were known to exist as early as 450 B.C., for many centuries they were deprecated as devices planted by the devil to delude man. Another conviction held was that fossils were "relics of that accursed race that perished with the flood." But by the turn of the 19th century a few pioneer students of the earth, geologists (the early geologists were more stone masons than scientists) noticed that a relationship existed between certain layers of rocks and the fossils which they contained. Each layer seemed to have its own characteristic plant and animal remains. These men began to sense dimly vast expanses of time punctuated here and there by profound changes in life, topography and climate. Slowly they began to piece together the petrified bits and pieces into a picture of the life of millions of year ago. Thus was born the science of paleontology, the study of ancient life. Paleontology is an adjunct of geology, the broader science that investigates the structure and history of the earth and in a practical way discovers and exploits all kinds of economic mineral resources including oil, coal, iron and gold and so on.

There are many things of interest in the Red Deer valley for the geologist. For the paleontologist the badlands are a veritable storehouse of fossils which is easily accessible to the amateur fossil hunter as well as the professional collector. A few hours spent exploring the coulees of the valley will prove stimulating and rewarding to anyone who follows the dinosaur trail and visits the local museum.

This earth is perhaps three billion years old. So far as paleontologists can tell the first living things appeared on earth about two billion years ago. For a long time after that, possibly one and a half billion years the only animals were relatively insignificant creatures such as sponges, jellyfish, snails, clams, worms and crab-like beasts, but no animals with backbones appeared until about four hundred million years ago. These first animals with backbones were the fishes which were soon followed by creatures that could breathe air and spend part of their lives out of the water, in other words: amphibians, whose living descendants are the frogs, turtles and

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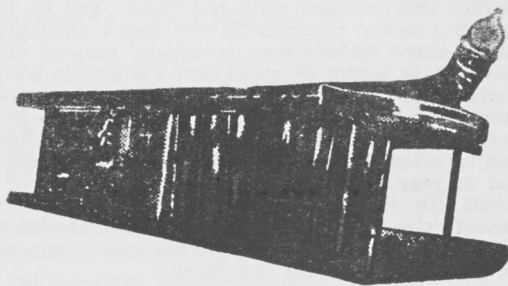
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salamanders. A little later some amphibians became entirely divorced from their life in the water, developed dry, scaly skins and thus became the first reptiles.

The reptiles soon dominated the land and ushered in the Age of Reptiles. This age is known technically as the Mesozoic Era and lasted about 130 million years. It came to a close about 65 million years ago with the final extinction of the great dinosaurs and most of their lesser allies. Of the reptiles only the turtles, lizards, snakes, crocodiles and the tuatara have survived to modern times. The Age of Mammals in which we live followed the demise of the dinosaurs. The great Ice Age, of which we speak so glibly in terms of long ago, in fact occurred within the last million years and according to some is still with us.

Where in this long history do the rocks in the Red Deer valley fit and how did they come to be?

### GEOLOGY

The most abundant rocks in the valley walls are composed of alternate bands of black, brown, grey and white layers of coal, clay, ironstone, shale and sandstone. These rocks are called the Edmonton formation by geologists and the fossils they contain tell us that they date from near the end of the Age of Reptiles, a time known to geologists as the Cretaceous Period. In a few places light grey yellow cliffs can be seen above the darker coloured Edmonton rocks and these belong to the Paskapoo formation which was laid down some 60-65 million years ago at the beginning of the Age of Mammals. Still higher in the bluffs, right up to the prairie's edge and "on top" are yellow gravels, sands and silts which date from sometime in the great Ice Age or Pleistocene Epoch. These sediments are only a few thousand years old and evidently formed in lakes that lay upon the land when the broad glaciers were melting away. The regularly banded yellow silts which can be seen along the highway as it begins its descent towards Drumheller were deposited in old Lake Drumheller which is estimated to have covered an area of approximately eleven hundred square miles. Lake Drumheller was dammed by glacial ice that melted more slowly to the south, but when the ice dam finally disappeared the old lake was drained and the final sculpturing of the Red Deer valley commenced. This occurred only a few thousand years ago. The rim of hills at the prairie level are composed of sand and gravel that was dumped from glacial streams as the melting ice caused their channels to collapse.

What occurred between the end of the Age of Reptiles and the Ice Age is little known in the Drumheller district. Sediments probably continued to be deposited here off and on for the 65 million years of the Age of Mammals, but the glaciers so gouged the surface of the earth that they carried away mile after cubic mile of more recent rocks. Thus was destroyed most of the record in the rocks except those from the very earliest times in the

(Continued On Following Page)

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Age of Mammals, which are still preserved in the Paskapoo formation.

### THE EDMONTON FORMATION

The colourfully banded layers of the Edmonton formation were deposited by meandering rivers in shallow lakes and lagoons and flood plains. Layer upon layer of mud, clay, silt and sand piled up over thousands of years to a depth of hundreds of feet. In the ensuing millions of years these sediments were cemented and compacted into the hard rocks they are today.

It is a distinctive feature of these rocks that they contain large quantities of the mineral bentonite which is derived from the chemical weathering of volcanic ash. At times, thin but very extensive layers of white volcanic ash were apparently deposited directly in shallow bodies of water covering much of the Central Alberta and Saskatchewan region. This material called the Kneehills tuff in the Drumheller area is very hard and forms a thin white "cap rock" at the rim of Horseshoe canyon. According to geologists the ash itself was evidently spewed out of volcanoes which erupted to the south in what is now the state of Montana.

Most of the sand and mud that forms the Edmonton formation was derived from the erosion of highlands to the west. The Rocky Mountains had begun to rise in the closing phases of the Mesozoic Era (Age of Reptiles) under the influence of what seems an almost unimaginable warping of the American continent. Off and on for hundreds of millions of years a vast inland seaway had joined the Gulf of Mexico and the Arctic Ocean across what now are the prairie states and provinces. Some deposits from this arm of the sea called the Bearpaw formation can be seen south-east of Drumheller where brown shales form the base of the stems of the Hoodoos at Willow Creek. Fossil oyster shells in the Edmonton formation are apparently derived from this inland sea which briefly inundated some of the lowlands at several times during deposition of the Edmonton sediments.

At the very end of the Age of Reptiles the warping of the continent combined with erosion to cause the final retreat of this great seaway from North America. By this time the last of the Edmonton rocks had been deposited.

The Edmonton formation is of great interest because of the wealth of dinosaur bones which it contains. But dinosaurs are not the only fossils in these rocks. Also present are remains of various less spectacular creatures including sharks, alligators, gars and other fishes, salamanders, turtles, lizards, crocodiles and an almost unbelievable sea-monster called a plesiosaur. At several places there are layers of ancient oyster shells and besides coal deposits there are remains of a great variety of plants and petrified tree trunks.

### ALBERTA 70 MILLION YEARS AGO

Scientific analysis of the geological and paleontological evidence afforded by the Edmonton formation and its fossils permits the following impressions of what Alberta was like some 70 million years ago.

Where flat prairie land now rises gradually toward the ancient Rocky Mountains a broad swampy delta formed along the edges of the inland sea that stretched north-westward from the Gulf of Mexico. Where the Red Deer river now cuts its canyon there were then broad and meandering streams, with backwaters bordering on the stagnant, which in places produced swamps where vegetation decayed in the first stages of coal formation. These lowlands were periodically flooded and occasionally for several years at a time the sea drowned some of the river mouths. Wide savannas reached inland onto higher ground.

Where now temperatures range from 110 degrees above zero to 50 degrees below and the countryside is swept unmercifully by winter blizzards, the climate was then uniformly sub-tropical and the ground never froze in the winter. Where now trees worthy of the name exist only in sequestered places, then there lived a "forest primeval" composed of tall redwoods, cypresses, sable palms, plane trees, ginkos and others that today occur only in subtropical climes.

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In this setting instead of herds of cattle, sheep and occasional families of antelope there lived hordes of armoured and duck-billed dinosaurs. The variety of these creatures is almost beyond imagination. Armoured dinosaurs resembling horned toads as big as trucks moved sluggishly about the countryside. Fleeter dinosaurs the size of ostriches ran about on long hind legs in search of seeds, flies, insects or perhaps eggs. Always in the background lurked the possibility of sudden crushing death administered by the gigantic carnivorous dinosaurs which were among the most devastating destroyers nature has ever devised. Streams and lakes were populated, in addition to the ubiquitous duck-bill dinosaurs, by crocodiles, turtles and fishes, many of which were possibly indistinguishable from their descendants in the present day everglades. And in the trees or wherever else protection could be had from the fearsome brutes of the reptile world, there lived the tiny possum-like creatures, "the advance guard" of the furry minions destined a few million years hence, to inherit the world.

#### **DINOSAUR DISCOVERIES**

The most famous petrified remains found in the Drumheller Badlands are the dinosaur bones. While one may find abundant petrified wood, fossil shells, berries, cones and even whole beds of fossil oysters, it is the dinosaur remains that have made the area famous among paleontologists the world over.

In the summer of 1884, Dr. J. B. Tyrrell was dispatched by the Dominion Geological Survey to investigate reported occurrences of coal in the Red Deer river valley. While thus engaged he discovered the head of a petrified monster exposed on a hillside near Kneehill Creek. Dr. Tyrrell sent this and other specimens to Ottawa and Philadelphia for study, and as is usual in scientific research the results of the study were not published until several years afterwards. In 1897 the Drumheller district was visited by a paleontologist, Mr. Lawrence M. Lambe, of the Geological Survey of Canada. In 1910, Barnum Brown of the American Museum of Natural History of New York led the first organized expedition for dinosaurs into the valley between the Trochu ferry and the city of Drumheller. He returned in 1911 and in 1912 to complete his work in the Edmonton formation, and in the three years collected an exceptionally fine series of dinosaur skeletons and skulls. In 1912 also, the world famous fossil hunter, Mr. Charles H. Sternberg explored the area accompanied by his sons, Levi, Charles M. and George. On August 12th of that year, Charles M. Sternberg discovered a large duck-billed dinosaur skeleton on Michichi Creek which was later assembled at the National Museum in Ottawa and became the first dinosaur skeleton to be mounted in a Canadian museum. Although C. H. Sternberg continued to search for dinosaurs in the Canadian fossil fields for several years, he never returned to the Drumheller district. His three sons, however, conducted no less than thirteen expeditions in the general vicinity of Drumheller, Munson, Morrin,

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Trochu and Ardley. By far the most frequent visitor to the district was Dr. Charles M. Sternberg who, between 1923 and 1947, conducted six expeditions into the valley on behalf of the National Museum of Canada.

As recently as 1955-56 a dinosaur skeleton was excavated by the National Museum of Canada near Munson ferry and although the specimens are perhaps less easily discovered now than in earlier years, there is no evidence that the supply of fossils in the valley is becoming exhausted.

Since the first discoveries were made three quarters of a century ago nearly thirty fairly complete dinosaur skeletons have been obtained from the Red Deer Valley north of Drumheller. Many of these were new to science and have been duly recorded in technical literature that runs to many hundreds of pages.

The best collection of dinosaur skeletons and skulls from the Drumheller district may be seen in the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, the American Museum of Natural History in New York and the National Museum of Canada in Ottawa. Skulls and partial skeletons of other "Drumheller" dinosaurs are preserved in the Chicago Natural History Museum, the British Museum of Natural History in London, and in several North American and European university collections.

## DINOSAURS

Cold stone fossil beds tell us nearly all we know about the dinosaurs. These extinct reptiles however, were once the dominant wild animals throughout about 130 million years of earth history. The last of them died perhaps 65 million years ago when the warm blooded mammals finally inherited the earth.

The first dinosaurs evolved from small alligator like beasts some 200 million years ago. At first, the dinosaurs were small slender bodied animals quite different from the gigantic behemoths of later times. The first dinosaurs were probably flesh eating animals, but eventually some of these became more omnivorous in diet and later some of these became specialized to an herbivorous diet. The first dinosaurs were evidently bipedal animals, but when as a group they became heavier of body they tended to walk on all fours as their distant ancestors have done. A few dinosaurs, both of the herbivorous and carnivorous kinds, later became bipedal again; in fact it is not certain that the carnivorous dinosaurs ever passed through a completely quadrupedal stage in their evolution.

During the Age of Reptiles, the dinosaurs and their allies managed to become fitted for making a living in almost every conceivable fashion that was available on the earth of their time. For example; while dinosaurs ruled the land some other reptiles took to the sea and others even invaded the air spaces to become the well known Pteradactyls.

The greatest part of the Age of Reptiles had already passed before the Edmonton formation was deposited in Alberta. Most people think of dinosaurs as huge four-legged creatures with long necks and tails and tiny heads, but in fact this kind of dinosaur called sauropods had largely disappeared before any of the Canadian dinosaur beds were deposited. True sauropods still lived in the southern hemisphere and even in the southern parts of the United States (albeit in small numbers), but no remains of sauropods have ever been found in Canada, nor are they likely to be found here.

Many different kinds of dinosaurs however, did exist in the region now traversed by the Red Deer river. Those from the Drumheller district can be grouped roughly into the carnivorous and herbivorous kinds. As usual in nature, there were fewer carnivorous than herbivorous ones and these consisted of huge bipedal beasts 35 feet in length and of smaller animals perhaps no larger than a good sized dog. Of the smaller varieties we know very little because their fossil remains are rare and when found consist usually of teeth and isolated broken bones. The larger carnivorous dinosaurs were exemplified by *Albertosaurus* which was an ancestor of the world famous *Tyrannosaurus rex*.

*Albertosaurus* had a short neck and body, a long tail, huge head with a mouth full of sabre-like teeth four inches long and powerful hind legs

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with feet which resembled those of a turkey. The front legs were by contrast so small as to appear practically without function.

Constructed along similar lines but more slender of body and only about nine feet in length were the ostrich mimic dinosaurs called *Struthiomimus*. Its bone structure tells us that *Struthiomimus* was a true carnivorous dinosaur by descent but it had become adapted to another mode of life. Instead of the powerful jaws armed with fearsome teeth its feeding mechanism was weak and teeth had been replaced with a horny bird-like beak. Its neck was relatively long and slender. Its hindlegs were long and slender. The front legs were longer in proportion than they were in its larger carnivorous colleagues. The food of *Struthiomimus* is somewhat of a mystery. Perhaps it consisted of fruits, berries, insects, eggs, either one or all. One thing is certain, it was a very agile and swift moving animal which resembled an ostrich without feathers.

The plant eating dinosaurs can be divided into several groups including the duck-billed, horned, armoured and others.

The duck-billed dinosaurs were by far the most common animal of their day in the Drumheller district. One species called *Edmontosaurus* was nearly 30 feet long. It had a long tail, which was flattened from side to side, heavy hind limbs, short front legs and a moderately long and slender neck. Its head was not unusually small as dinosaur heads go and the jaws contained batteries of specialized teeth. There were perhaps a thousand or more teeth present in the mouth of a single animal, although only around two hundred of these were in use at any one time during its life. The other teeth were held in reserve and came into use as the ones above them were worn off. As the name implies, the duck-billed dinosaurs have a peculiar toothless snout which when viewed from different angles reminds one of the bill of a duck. These animals were presumably sluggish beasts which spent most of their time in pools of the great Edmonton delta, both in order to escape the fearsome *Albertosaurus* and also literally to take the weight off their feet. These animals weighed several tons and the bones were constructed so that probably they could not support the weight of the body on dry land for very long at a time. Usually, skeletons of the duck-billed dinosaurs are found laying on their sides with the head thrown back, the forelimbs dangling in front of the body, the tail extended out in a more or less straight fashion behind and the legs strongly flexed suggesting a swimming position. In many cases we have found impressions of the skin preserved in the rocks around their bones so we know that the hide of the duck-billed dinosaur was composed of scales which were arranged in various ornamental ways. We do not of course know anything about the colour of the 'skin' or of the colouration of any other dinosaur for that matter.

*Edmontosaurus* was not the only duck-bill dinosaur of this region. There were others, both larger and smaller, which had strangely developed heads. Whereas the bodies of the duck-billed dinosaurs were pretty much alike, the tops of the heads of the different species differ greatly from one another. For example, the head of *Edmontosaurus* was flat on top but some of its close relatives had greatly swollen foreheads and one had a long spike that projected backwards above the neck.

Typical of the horned dinosaurs were the swamp-dwelling creatures called *Anchiceratops*. This animal was not quite as large as an elephant but probably weighed a couple of tons. It walked on four massive legs of which, (as in all dinosaurs) the hind ones were much longer than those in front. The tail was short for a dinosaur and was possibly carried off the ground. There was practically no neck, in fact some of the bones in the neck had solidified into a single mass in order to strengthen the support for the gigantic head. *Anchiceratops* and the other horned dinosaurs were unusual among dinosaurs in having heads of tremendous size. In *Anchiceratops* the head accounted for almost a quarter of the length of the animal's body. It consisted of a sharp hooked beak that resembled that of a turtle, a fairly long face and behind, a broad sheet of bone formed an ornamental shelf or frill that projected over the shoulder region. There was a small horn on top of the

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beak above the nose and a larger one over each eye. The teeth resembled those of the duck-bill dinosaurs, but were less numerous. The jaws were extremely powerful.

Whereas the duck-billed dinosaurs were evidently defenceless away from the water, the horned dinosaurs presumably could give a good account of themselves in any encounter with *Albertosaurus* or his unfriendly relatives. For, not only did the bony frill behind the head protect the front part of the body from frontal attack, the horns bore at the unprotected belly of the great flesh-eaters, which it will be recalled walked on their hind legs with the front part of the body well elevated.

There were many different kinds of 'horned' dinosaurs (some of which it may be noted did not have horns) but not many are found in the Drumheller area. A very small species has been found upstream from the town of Trochu and the ancestors of the famous *Triceratops* is known to occur in the Edmonton rocks near Morrin ferry.

The other great group of dinosaurs were the armoured forms. Imagine a modern day "horned toad" 20 feet long and five or six feet wide and you will have a fair idea of what these pre-historic tanks must have looked like in life. Their bodies were low and broad and supported by pillar-like legs, which instead of long slender toes and claws had feet that probably resembled large land tortoises of today with stubby hook-like ends of the toes. The upper side of the body was covered with a mosaic of horny plates and along the sides were curved spikes which became very large and heavy in the region of the shoulders. The heads of armoured dinosaurs were small and completely covered with thick bony plates above and on the sides. The tail was long and so stiffened by bony rods along the sides of the vertebrae that it was evidently rigid at least in its back portion. At the end of the tail were large almond shaped chunks of bone which fitted together to form a club-like structure. This tail in life must have resembled a gigantic mace. One can imagine that such a creature was partly immune to attacks by *Albertosaurus*; when danger threatened it may simply have squatted down and swept its tail back and forth in a broad arc behind it. Conceivably the tail club could have cut the feet of a carnivorous dinosaur completely out from under him. In this connection it is interesting to note that many shin bones of carnivorous dinosaurs show the results of severe injuries during life.

Many armoured dinosaurs had their teeth greatly reduced in size and numbers and evidently depended on a horny beak and tough cheek pads to obtain their food which consisted probably of low, soft leafy plants.

All of these dinosaurs lived in or close to bodies of water. They were lowlanders. On higher ground there existed other dinosaurs about which we know very little because their carcasses were seldom buried where they could become fossils. One that is worthy of mention is the bony headed dinosaur; *Stegoceras*. The roof of the skull was composed of a great sphere of solid bone, the function of which is still a mystery to paleontologists. The skull bones are fairly common fossils because they were so solid they have resisted disintegration better than the rest of the skeleton which was a fairly delicate affair. The *Stegoceras* was not a large dinosaur, possibly reaching a length of no more than three feet.

So much for the common dinosaurs of the Drumheller valley. There were others but we know very little about them. They were relatively insignificant in numbers. Many and varied ancestors of these Drumheller dinosaurs are found as fossils elsewhere in Canada. The famous *Triceratops* and *Tyrannosaurus* which are descended from dinosaurs from the Drumheller area are known to occur further upstream on the Red Deer river. These animals were among the very last of the dinosaurs and as yet no very complete specimen of either has been discovered in Alberta.

#### HOW ARE DINOSAUR SPECIMENS COLLECTED?

It is a popular misconception that the fossil hunter finds his bones by digging for them. Nothing could be more futile. The proverbial needle in the haystack would be much easier to discover than a dinosaur in the Drum-

(Continued On Following Page)

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heller valley if this were the method employed by paleontologists. Fortunately the fossil hunter has the assistance of Mother Nature and the processes of erosion expose the fossil bones to view in just the same way as it exposes the rocks which surrounds the fossils. When the paleontologist enters an area of erosion his eyes are glued to the ground, while he prospects for fragments of broken fossil bone that have been brought to the surface through the various processes of erosion. Usually, when such fragments are discovered careful investigation will lead only to the discovery of a piece of a bone; a vertebra or two, possibly a leg, a foot, a skull, but only occasionally does such a prospect lead to the discovery of a complete skeleton. It may require many days, weeks or even months of tedious prospecting to discover a complete dinosaur skeleton such as those to be seen on display in many large museums all over the world.

At some places there occur accumulations of bones of dinosaurs and other animals piled helter skelter in a fairly restricted area. These deposits are known as bone beds and may not contain material that is suitable for museum displays. A well exposed bone bed of this type occurs east of Morrin ferry. There are others on the west side of the Red Deer river north of Munson ferry. These bone beds apparently resulted from the washing about of decaying dinosaur carcasses on the shores of ancient bodies of water and they indicate that for some reason a large number of animals died at approximately the same time.

Once a favourable prospect has been discovered a great deal of work in the form of physical labour is required to remove the specimen from its burial place to the museum. This may require excavation with shovels and picks. Sometimes even dynamite judiciously employed its brought into play. It may be necessary to remove tons of rock from above the skeleton in order that the paleontologist may uncover the bones and once the excavation has progressed to the point where the bones are almost exposed then the heavy tools are discarded in favour of such implements as small awls, hammers and chisels, whisk brooms and paint brushes and the like. The bones of the skeleton are outlined with these more delicate implements and as each new area of bone is exposed to the air it must be treated immediately with solutions such as shellac which will harden the bone and protect it against the drying effects of the atmosphere. This may sound strange if the bones are actually petrified or turned to stone, but as a matter of fact freshly exposed fossil bones are often most brittle and soft and the drying effects of the air produces very unfavourable results in many cases. Of course the bones cannot be completely freed from the rock in the field. This is a time consuming operation that can only be accomplished in the museum laboratory.

As soon as the bones have been fairly well exposed on the upper side, trenches a foot or so wide are dug all around the bones so that in effect the bones are left resting on a pedestal of the original rock. Then the bone exposed on the upper side of the pedestal is covered with wet tissue paper,

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and on top of the wet tissue paper are laid bandages made of strips of burlap dipped in plaster of paris and wrapped on in much the same fashion as a doctor would place a plaster cast on a broken arm. If the bones are large it may be necessary to emulate the doctor more closely by employing splints which are usually made of any sort of wood that can be obtained in the vicinity of the excavation. As soon as the plaster jacket on the upper side of the pedestal has hardened the rock is cut away from the under side and the plaster jacket containing the bones and upper part of the pedestal is turned over and the same procedure is repeated on the under side. The result of this work is a fossil bone completely encased in a plaster of paris cast which, if it is properly made, should protect the bone during its transportation from the field to the museum and the bone should arrive at the museum in the same state of preservation in which it was removed from the ground. Once the fossil has been received in the museum laboratory the upper half of the protective plaster is cut away and the bone is again hardened and strengthened by the application of various solutions. The rock that still remains adherent to the bone is carefully chipped, scraped or ground off. The broken pieces of bone are removed and cleaned and then are fastened back together with various types of glue and plaster. In the case of long bones sometimes it is desirable to drill holes through the centres and insert iron rods, wires or some other means of strengthening the fossils internally and then they are put together with plaster. This procedure is referred to as preparation. After the fossil bones have been prepared they are then studied, identified and classified by the paleontologist. If they are of scientific interest the paleontologist usually prepares a highly technical report which is published in some professional journal and announces to the scientific world the discovery of a new creature or some interesting fact about an extinct animal that had not been previously known to science.

If the specimen is exceptionally good it may then be placed on display in a museum where the public as well as the scientist can take advantage of it and this is the way in which the magnificent dinosaur skeletons in many of the world's large museums have come to reside in exhibition halls. In mounting a dinosaur skeleton a tremendous amount of work is involved from a purely engineering point of view. Because the bones are extremely heavy and at the same time are exceedingly fragile it is necessary to support them on iron work or scaffolding which must be fashioned very carefully so as to fit the irregular configuration of the dinosaur bones and at the same time detract as little as possible from the skeleton itself. Mounting a large dinosaur skeleton in this fashion may require the complete efforts of one or two men for periods of two, three or even more years. If, as is usually the case the specimen is not completely represented, since part of the animal's skeleton may have been carried away before the carcass was buried and part of it may have been destroyed by erosion before the skeleton was discovered by the paleontologist some missing parts of the skeleton may have to be reconstructed in plaster of paris. This is a quite legitimate solution to the problem because otherwise, even though the scientist may have a

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good idea of what the complete structure of the animal looked like, the layman may not be able to understand the structure of the animal if, for example, the skeleton was mounted with only three legs and only the back half of the tail with nothing in between it and the rest of the body. So these missing parts are frequently reproduced in plaster using either bones from the opposite side of the same skeleton as a guide, or else using bones from skeletons of other individuals of the same or very closely related species. In this way the public is assured of the accuracy of the reconstruction, and need not fall prey to the sometimes heard exclamation in museums, "After all, they make these things out of plaster." This is not the case!

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### WHAT KILLED THE DINOSAURS?

It is impossible to state definitely what caused the extermination of the dinosaurs. It is also impossible to state whether a single factor was operative or a combination of many.

Perhaps the most general explanation would be that these great animals were unable to adapt themselves to changing conditions. They may have succumbed to other more progressive animals. They were cold blooded, sluggish, with a small and lowly organized brain in comparison to their bulk, which may have made it difficult for them to compete with more efficient warm blooded mammals which appeared at the end of the Cretaceous period. Small mammals could also have preyed upon their eggs.

There may have been other changing conditions in their environment such as a sudden climatic change, perhaps a flood, perhaps a suffocating blizzard of volcanic ash and gas. A change in food supply may have been an important factor and food supply change may have been brought about to some extent by alteration in climate which also could have affected the dinosaurs, but probably affected the type of vegetation. Perhaps the draining of the lowlands was another factor. The great problem in explaining the extinction of any group of animals lays in the fact that an explanation that would account for the extinction of any one animal or one small association of animals may not be sufficient to account for the extinction of the really great variety of creatures which actually occurred. There is no really good explanation of extinction that would account for the disappearance of the dinosaurs on land, the flying reptiles in the air and the marine reptiles in the water.

It is believed that a race or order can become old and weak in the same way as an individual. This is called racial senescence. This is often accompanied by overspecialization. During the closing years of the Cretaceous period the number of species and individuals gradually became fewer, although more highly specialized and gigantic. Large, specialized forms are easily exterminated if subjected to a change in habitat or food supply.

It should be born in mind that these extinctions did not occur instantaneously or overnight, so to speak. They were long drawn out affairs which took probably millions of years to accomplish, that is speaking of the reptiles as a whole. Of course it was quite likely that local extinctions may have done away with all the dinosaurs in a specifically restricted area in a brief period of time.

If these animal's physiology was anything like that of the living reptiles, just a simple hard freeze of two or three days duration would have been sufficient to kill them off. Certainly, too, a very brief period of exceeding heat would have accounted for the death of all the creatures that could not protect themselves from this heat, and this of course in the absence of water would have included practically all the dinosaurs, because after all it would be pretty hard for a dinosaur to crawl under a rock or dig a hole to get out of the direct rays of the sun, as modern reptiles and the little lizards in the deserts are able to do. As a matter of fact the lizards and snakes in desert areas, and this is where we customarily think of reptiles living today are inclined to be nocturnal, coming out only in the cooler part of the day which is in the early evening and in the early morning. In many in-

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stances the deserts are too cold for them in the middle of the night and they again retreat under the rocks, where there is a degree of warmth. During the middle of the day when the sun beats down on the desert no reptile can withstand this high temperature for very long. They lose control of their muscles, are unable to get out of the rays of the sun and simply lay down and 'stew in their own juice.'

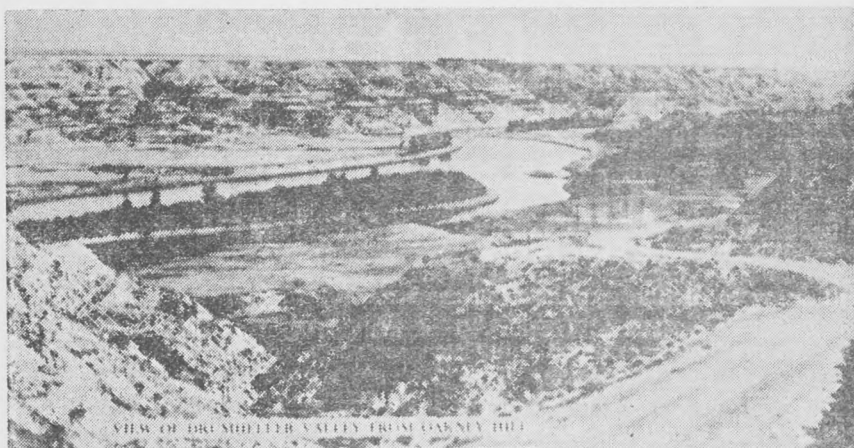
Thus we may speculate along various interesting lines of thought. But with certainty we may say that the day of the dinosaur was over as the Cretaceous period drew to a close, and the future so far as reptiles were concerned was to belong to the relatively small animals that we know today, the lizards, snakes, turtles and crocodiles.

---

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The Dinosaur Exhibition was a lot of fun,  
Another club project and a job well done.  
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# THIS IS DRUMHELLER

By MARION SMITH

Drumheller is a city of approximately 2,750 people, with an additional 4,924 people residing in several adjacent hamlets. Eighty miles northeast of Calgary on No. 9 Highway, it is situated in a deep canyon, through which flows the beautiful Red Deer river.

While Drumheller has been classed as a city since 1931, circumstances and, I believe situation, have deterred the extensive growth which has taken place in recent years in Alberta's leading cities. However there is a building expansion at present, with many new homes and recreational facilities; i.e. the new public school gymnasium and library, the new High school library and a new swimming pool and enlarged recreational park. Government building projects have provided the Sunshine Lodge for Senior Citizens and a Chronic Hospital is now being constructed. The Court House, Provincial Building and RCMP barracks are also fine new buildings that have been erected in recent years. The City of Drumheller has built a beautifully landscaped water treatment plant and is enlarging and extending sewage facilities, to meet general requirements as the city grows larger. A four lane traffic bridge replaces an old steel structure, linking the city with districts to the north on No. 9 Highway. This has greatly aided in speeding up traffic and is a great improvement to the fine scenery along the river.

It was with great pride and a sense of better things for the future of our city, that a large crowd witnessed the unveiling of our own life size model dinosaur at the southern approach to this new bridge just one year ago. Since that time he has been admired and photographed by thousands of tourists. Local residents, including the school children who pass "Dinny" each day, have formed a genuine affection for him, for all his hideous expression, with glowing eyes and huge teeth.

With a trading area of some 40,000 people, among them many prosperous and influential stock-breeders, ranchers and farmers, Drumheller is now known as the centre of the Big Country. Plans are underway for a bigger and better Exhibition this year and possibly with a Livestock Show in connection as soon as facilities can be provided. An Auction Mart and improved abattoir have increased local livestock marketing.

Tourist traffic is increasing each year as the fame of the prehistoric Museum draws thousands of vacationers who wish to see the unusual, highly informative and interesting displays. Many also tour the Dinosaur Trail, with its striking scenery, and many points of interest. Picnic shelters with fresh water are located along the way.

The Little Church in its lonely situation in the heart of the Badlands country along the Dinosaur Trail, is never lonely for long as shown by the thousands of names that have filled its registry, and all have been most favorably impressed. There are good motel and camping facilities in North Drumheller, while in the city there is a modern motel and public picnic grounds. There are also several hotels, service stations and restaurants for the convenience of travellers. Stores offering every type of merchandise make up a busy city center.

In this strenuous era of electronics and the atom; of asphalt and the automobile; of commerce and the commuter, it is a blessing rather than a hindrance to live in a smaller city. While enjoying modern conveniences and a good standard of living, Drumhellerites still live in that friendly small town atmosphere, where everyone knows his neighbor and most of the people he meets on the street or during a day's business.

Since opening their first plant in Drumheller in 1926, the Canadian Utilities Ltd. plant have expanded their plant facilities many times over to supply the Big Country with power and light. Drumheller has become the headquarters for the Alberta Gas Trunk Lines Company. Oil and gas wells are operating throughout the district, though some have been capped off for future use.

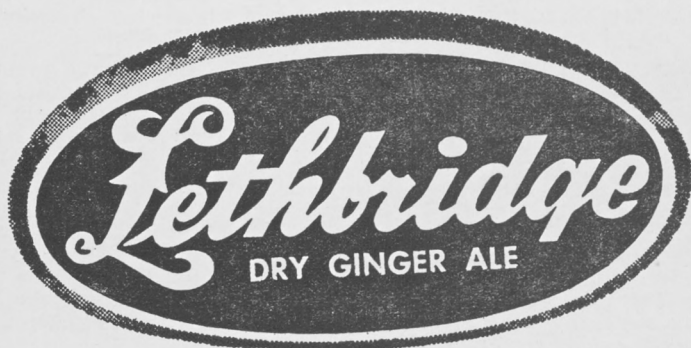
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Having for many years been the leading Western domestic coal producing center, there are now only four mines still operating throughout the Valley. While the loss of income and employment is lamentable, it is the price that must be paid for progress, since natural gas and fuel oil now lead the consumer market. However it is an ill wind that blows no good, and it was indeed an ill wind that blew the stench from the burning mine dumps across our valley for many years. Now that the coal in their depths is no longer needed, the unique beauty of these surrounding hills is still proving to be Drumheller's greatest asset as a tourist attraction. It is to be hoped its citizens will continue to beautify their valley as it has long deserved.

Eroded by the rain, sun and winds since time immemorial, the Badlands must remain as Nature left them; no man can till them with his plow, nor can he build upon them.

To look upon these ancient hills in quiet reflection is to be humbled anew into the realization of the infinitesimal place our human problems occupy in the Creator's Great Scheme. If I were to live elsewhere, and looking out my window saw no hills, I would miss them as one would an old and dear friend.

---

## HOODOOS

The rock layers exposed in the Red Deer Valley walls are composed of different materials such as sandstone, shale, clay, ironstone and coal. Since these rocks differ greatly in hardness some of them resist erosion better than others. The harder rocks are usually thinner than the softer ones in this particular region. When the hard layers are undermined by the erosional activity of wind, running water, freezing, thawing and so on, the harder layers tend to remain as protection for the softer rocks below. as erosion progresses however, the softer rocks and then the protective harder tops become separated from the adjacent rock masses and this often results in a sort of gigantic "toad-stool" structures that have been termed Hoodoos. Hoodoos are a characteristic feature of badlands everywhere and may vary in size from tiny structures a fraction of an inch in height to massive pillars as tall as buildings. Some good examples of Hoodoos can be seen at Willow Creek where resistant sandstone layers at the base of the Edmonton formation cap pillars of softer and more easily eroded shale of the Bearpaw formation.

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# DRUMHELLER AND DISTRICT MUSEUM SOCIETY

(Incorporated under the Societies Act of Alberta)

By DR. W. R. READ

For many years the citizens of the Drumheller area have been aware of the need for a suitable place to display the unique and unsurpassed fossil remains for which the Drumheller Valley is famous. Despite the fact that dinosaur skeletons and other fossils, had been removed from the valley for over 50 years and were prominently displayed in museums at Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto and Ottawa and many centres in the United States and Great Britain, there had never been an organized effort to provide educational or tourist information at the source of these exhibits.

In the autumn of 1955 the nucleus of a museum was started in the clubhouse at the Rotary swimming pool. The collection grew steadily until 1957 at which time the Museum Society was incorporated with a view to financing a more suitable museum. This plan came closer to realization in May of 1960 when the specimens were moved to the new building on Second Street East.

The number of visitors to the new museum building has increased rapidly throughout 1960 and is continuing to increase in 1961. These visitors represent all areas of Alberta, every province of Canada, every state of the United States and increasing numbers from overseas points. Throughout the summer of 1960 weekly bus loads of tour groups from eastern Canada visited the museum before they toured the Dinosaur Trail. The most encouraging features of the new quarters is the increasing number of children including bus loads and classes accompanied by their teachers who are able to visit and study the exhibits in more spacious surroundings and gain a great deal more educationally from this experience.

Many new exhibits have been acquired throughout the past year. During the summer a party of museum members excavated and collected the skull of a "Horned Type" of Dinosaur. This is considered a very interesting specimen and is being studied by the National Museum of Canada. In mid-summer six large petrified tree stumps were removed to the front of the building. This was a major undertaking requiring heavy equipment as the six specimens are estimated to weigh 10 tons. Plans are under consideration to surround these by a low fence capped by petrified tree trunks. A group of some fifty photographs were also placed on display in August. These depict early days in the Drumheller area as well as several views of the badlands and early dinosaur hunting.

In October four new and modern displays were arranged to depict: 1, The geology of the badlands; 2, The inland sea; 3, The petrified forest and 4, Coal. These are designed to tell a complete story of the geology of the badlands.

The back half of the building is being renovated to accommodate the mounted skeleton of *Edmontosaurus*, a type of duck-billed dinosaur common to this area. It will be the major exhibit in the back portion of the museum and will be the centre of all the exhibits which will eventually fill this room and be known as the Dinosaur Hall. The duck-billed specimen has been under preparation at the National Museum in Ottawa for over two years. This specimen will be the highlight of the museum as such large specimens are usually found only in major museums.

It is planned to reserve one complete case for the use of finds brought in to the museum by local children which has been organized under Mrs. D. McVeigh as the "Pebble Pups." This will give the children of the area an opportunity to participate in the affairs of the museum and at the same time acquire a greater knowledge of the unique area in which they live.

The Museum Society is deeply appreciative of the continuing interest and generous financial support of local citizens and business people. The amount of free time and the materials donated by local workmen has been greater in the past year than at any previous time and without the generosity and hard work of these interested citizens the present development of the

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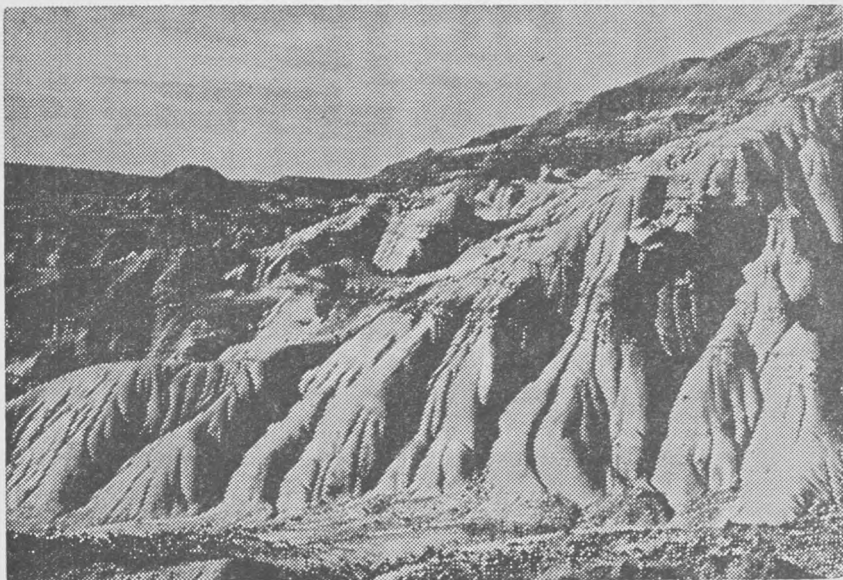
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museum could never have been reached. From time to time throughout the year we have had technical assistance from the Glenbow Foundation of Calgary and from the National Museum of Canada in Ottawa. We are particularly grateful to the National Museum of Canada for their untiring efforts on our behalf.

There now appears to be little doubt that when completed the museum will be self-supporting and provide a lasting and highly educational contribution to Drumheller, to Alberta and to all of Canada. The major problem of the museum, however, continues to be the necessity of funds to complete the necessary capital expenditures. It is estimated that a further \$5,000.00 is required to complete the renovation of the back of the Dinosaur Hall and the installation of the dinosaur skeleton. This amount is urgently needed. Anyone wishing to contribute may leave their donation at the Drumheller branches of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, the Bank of Montreal or the Treasury Branch, or mail them directly to The Museum, c/o Box 560, Drumheller, Alberta. All donors receive receipts deductible from Income Tax.



IN THE BADLANDS

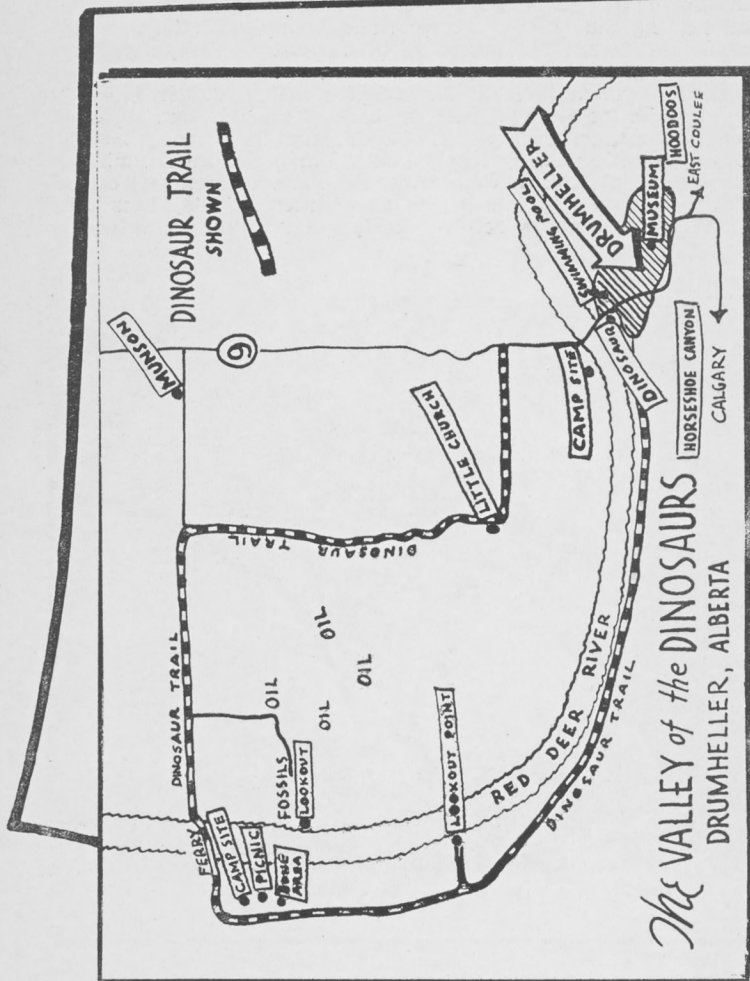
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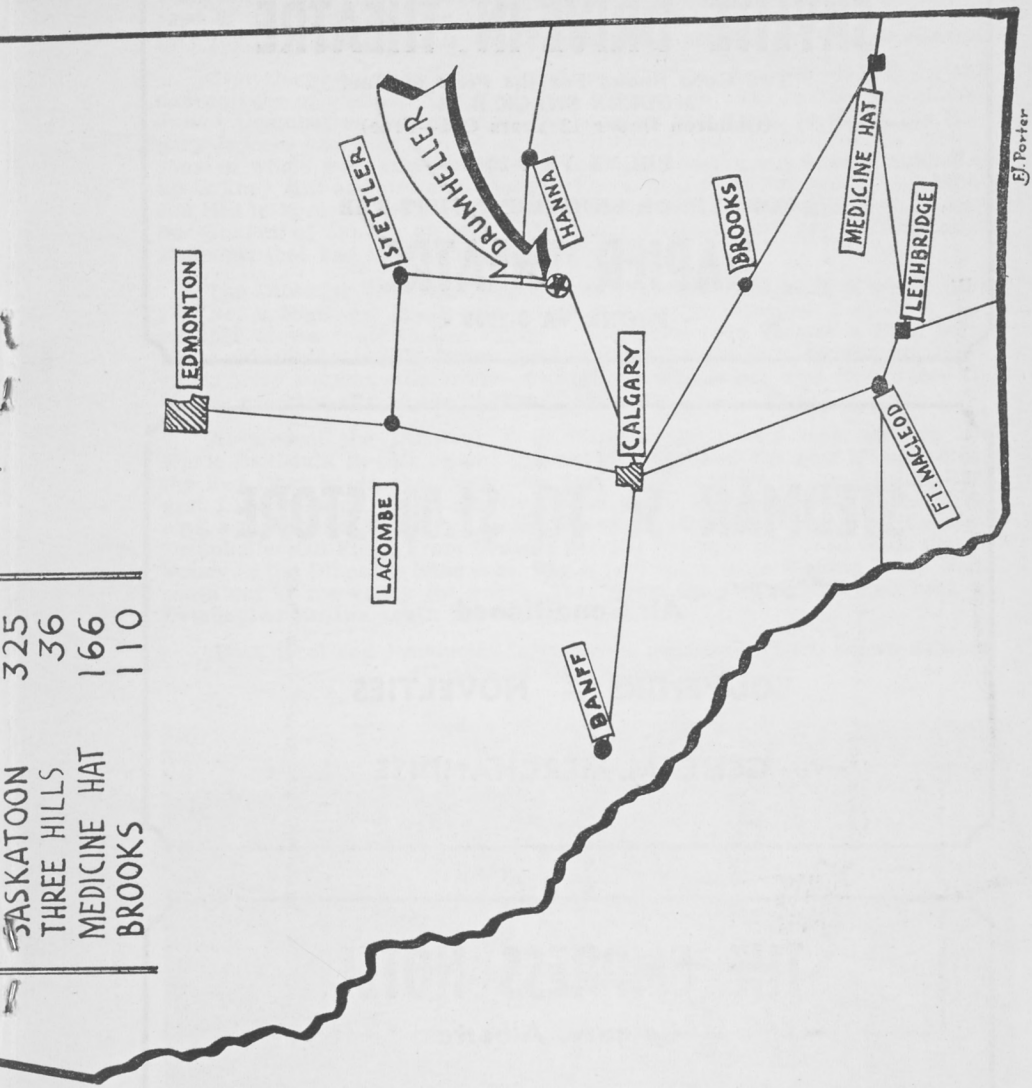


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## THE DINOSAUR TRAIL

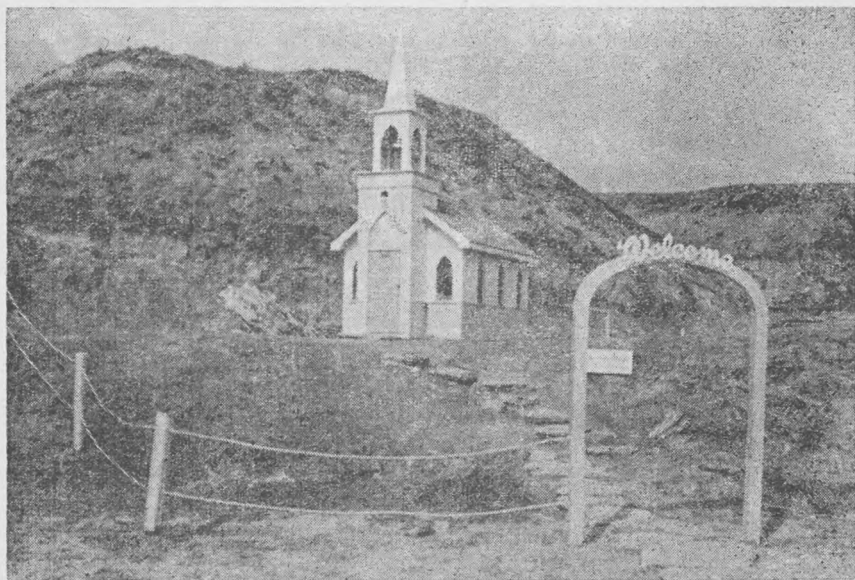
The Valley of the Red Deer River, in which Drumheller is situated, reveals some of the most remarkable scenery in Alberta. A visit to this "Graveyard of the Dinosaurs" provides a concrete link with the past. Here is history for the scholar, beauty for the artist, and satisfaction for the curious.

Over the years an official "Dinosaur Trail" has been developed for the convenience of visitors. The Trail was initiated in 1939 by the Drumheller Junior Chamber of Commerce on the occasion of a picnic to which the Calgary Jaycees had been invited. A specified route was desired for the guests, some of whom were expected late. Arrows pointed the way from Drumheller up Orkney Hill and down to Munson Ferry, also from Drumheller up Munson Hill to Munson Ferry. Shortly afterwards Lord Tweedsmuir, then Governor-General of Canada, visited the Dinosaur Valley to view one of the famous skeletons that had been partially unearthed.

The Dinosaur Trail was not completely marked until 1953, at which time the No. 9 Highway, previously rough and dusty, provided a modern, all-weather access route to the Valley. The Trail then became a focal point about which the tourist could concentrate his activities; further improvements were subsequently made—including a Snack Bar and Rest-Room facilities near the site of the "Little Church."

At present the Dinosaur Trail forms a thirty-mile loop through the scenic Badlands. Beginning one quarter mile north of the new bridge across the Red Deer River, the Trail runs west for five miles to the World's Largest Little Church, north for five miles, then west to the Munson Ferry, with a three-mile detour to the Horsethief's Canyon Viewpoint, in the West Drumheller Oil Field. From Munson Ferry a two-mile dirt road leads up the Valley to the Dinosaur Bone area. The return route from Munson Ferry leads south out of the valley for a mile, then down the Orkney Hill and back to Drumheller on the south side of the river.

Both local and Provincial Government authorities have shown substan-  
(Continued On Following Page)



THE LITTLE CHURCH ON THE DINOSAUR TRAIL

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**"Welcome to The Home of the Dinosaurs"**

tial interest in the development of the Dinosaur Trail as a first-class tourist attraction. Under construction at the present time is a new road running west up the valley from the Largest Little Church, project to be completed to Munson Ferry, and then to Morrin Bridge. Moreover, recent plans of the Drumheller Senior Chamber of Commerce call for the erection of a dinosaur replica at the western approach to the Drumheller Bridge.

The Jungling collection, which provided the foundation for the Drumheller Museum, was purchased in 1942 from the Jungling Estate by the Drumheller Jaycees, for the sum of \$300.00. This was probably the best collection of Dinosaur bones ever made in the area. The Jaycees kept the fossils in the local bungalow schools for years, until they were turned over to the Museum Society and restored.

Various residents of the valley have made extensive collections of fossil remains found along the Dinosaur Trail. Many of these have been preserved in the local museum. Most easily located by the casual but observant visitor are petrified wood, petrified tropical fruits, cones, crystallized shells, and the juniper wood that can be fashioned into beautiful figurines.

The whole area is in a setting that can best be described as awesome, from the strangely-eroded hills—a photographer's paradise with their changing colors, to the wind-washed Hoodoos, sitting like giant mushrooms beside the highway eight miles east of Drumheller on the way to East Coulee.

Travellers have a wonderful experience when they visit this unique Valley of the Dinosaurs, and traverse the Dinosaur Trail. Anyone contemplating a trip to Drumheller should be prepared to enjoy the fascination of the Dinosaur Trail as the highlight of the excursion.

---

## ROCKHOUND RECOMMENDATION

Thanks To L. A. Duncan, Calgary

The "Valley of the Dinosaurs" has been a happy hunting ground for the Rockhounds and Pebble Pupplies alike on a half-dozen occasions. A day-long hunt in the badlands will yield pieces of fossilized dinosaur vertebrae, maybe toe-bones or teeth, oyster and clam shells as well as fossilized wood, leaves, and cones. On rare occasions opalite, carnelian and chalcedony agate, jadeite and colored chert and serpentine can be found.

The badlands are a veritable paradise for the color photographer. Hoodoos, mesas, pill boxes and miniature canyons in their variegated color of stratification make spectacular pictures. The Calgary Rock and Lapidary Club of Calgary assures all tourist Rockhounds that they will never be disappointed by taking a trip to Drumheller, the centre of this wonderful scenic badlands.

### Tourists and Visitors

We wish to add our welcome to you when you visit Drumheller to tour our famous Badlands and District, as well as visiting the Drumheller Museum.

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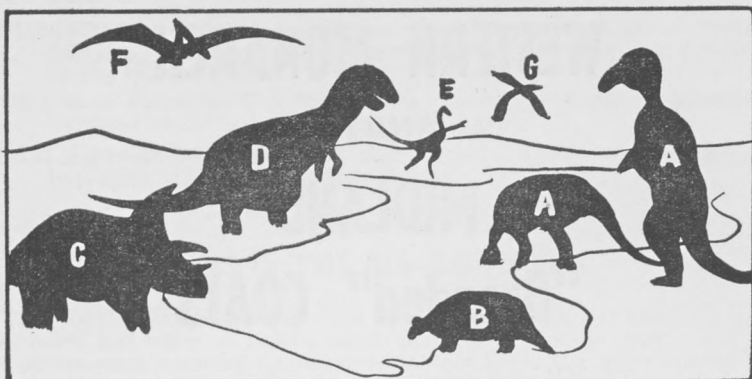
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**DRUMHELLER — ALBERTA**

# THE ART CLUB MURAL

By DR. W. R. READ



The ART CLUB MURAL was painted and presented to the Museum by the Drumheller Art Club in 1957. The mural accurately depicts the Dinosaurs of the Cretaceous period found in the Badlands of the Red Deer River.

The late Cretaceous period had a warm, equable, semi-tropical climate, with palms and ferns along the rivers, inland seas and lakes. There were also upland regions of some height forested with such familiar trees as oaks, willows, sassafras and hickory.

The forms of animal life depicted are classified as follows:

## HERBIVOROUS (PLANT-EATING) DINOSAURS

**ORDER** — Ornithischia from Greek 'ornithos—'Bird'+ischion—'Hip'; so named because the hip or pelvis is smaller to that in birds.

### A—DUCK-BILLED DINOSAURS

**SUBORDER** — Orithopoda — from Greek "ornthos — 'Bird'+podos 'foot'; hence with birdlike feet.

**GENUS** — Hadrosaurus — from Greek "hladros — 'Bulky'+sauros — 'Lizard'".

- or -

**Trachodon**—from Greek "trachys—'rough'+odon—'tooth'"; so named because the teeth form a rough sort of pavement.

### B—ARMOURED DINOSAUR

**SUBORDER** — Ankylosauria — from Greek "ankylus — 'curved'+sauros 'lizard'"; because of strongly curved ribs.

**GENUS** — Palaeoscinus — from Greek "palaios — 'Ancient'+skinkos 'Lizard'"; in reference to tooth structure resembling a modern sand lizard, the skink.

### C—HORNED DINOSAUR

**SUBORDER** — Ceratopsia — from Greek "keratos — 'Horn' + ops — 'face'".

**GENUS** — Various depending on the shape or the frilled collar and type of horns; e.g. "Monoclonius"—Single horn; "Triceratops" — Three horns; "Chasmosaurus"—Openings in the frill or collar, etc.

## CARNIVOROUS (FLESH-EATING) DINOSAURS

**ORDER** — Saurischia—from Greek "sauros 'Lizard'+ischion 'Hip'; the Dinosaurs having a pelvis or reptilian form.

**D—SUBORDER** — Theropoda — from Greek "ther 'beast' (or mammal)+Podos 'Foot'".

**GENUS** — GORGOSAURUS — from Greek "gorgos — 'Terrible' + sauros 'Lizard'".

**E—GENUS** — Struthiomimus—from Greek "stroothion 'strich'+mimos—'an imitator'".

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BADLANDS AND THE DRUMHELLER  
AND DISTRICT MUSEUM SOCIETY**

**Red Deer Valley Coal Co. Ltd.  
DRUMHELLER, ALBERTA**

## **F—FLYING REPTILE**

**ORDER — Pterosauria** — from Greek “pteron ‘Wing’+sauros — ‘Lizard’ ”.

**SUBORDER — Pterodactyloidea** — from Greek “pteron — ‘Wing’+daktylos — ‘Finger’ ”; so named because the wing was supported by the fourth finger.

**GENUS — Pteranodon** — from Greek “pteron — ‘Wing’+anodontos — ‘Without teeth’ ”; a toothless flying reptile.

**G—EARLY FEATHERED BIRD**—A stage in the evolution between ancient, imperfect birds and the modern bird.

---

## **THIS IS THE BIG COUNTRY**

The Big Country is the Canadian West; it's a country of swishing grain fields; miles and miles of rolling cattle country; a country of oil wells, and some of the most amazing sights man has ever seen. The Big Country is a red and gold sunrise in the East, and it's a purple and silver sunset in the West. It is a clean south wind, and a pale blue sky. It's a flower on a cactus, or a dust cloud raised, or a herd of cattle. It is the tippie leaning into the hillside waiting for another load of coal, and too, it's the man standing bareheaded in the field, letting the good grain trickle through his fingers.

The Big Country is all of this and more. It is the roar of diesel engines driving a bit into the earth. It is the glint on a silver oil field battery tank, and it is the whistling rumble of a locomotive thundering through the dark prairie night. The Big Country is many things to its many people; a child running for a yellow school bus, a four-man orchestra playing to a smiling laughing crowd in a community hall in a small prairie town, or the crack of a .22 rifle as the apprentice deer slayer practices on a bobbing rabbit. It is a country that has lived a full life of adventure, a colorful life . . . it has been shrouded in gunsmoke in its day, and drifted over with earth in the summers of the dusty days gone by. It has been mantled with crisp, clean snow in winters, and crocuses in the spring, of every year since time began. The Big Country has everything a man could ever want . . . not sky scrapers or mile upon mile of cluttered concrete sidewalk or hard-top road. The Big Country has a softness, an openness; a cleanness that you can find nowhere else in the world.

For in the beginning the Lord made Heaven and Earth, and He took a bit of each and set them down on this part of Alberta; now known far and wide as The Big Country.

—T. W. DOWSON,  
Production Manager, CJDV.

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## A "SURE-FIRE" TREAT



## PARK BY THE RED DEER RIVER

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As this issue of the Badlands Bulletin goes to press the sights of the Morrin and District Chamber of Commerce are set high. Ahead this group of enterprising citizens sees a park in every way worthy of their past endeavors.

In retrospect they see a pattern of highway development unfolding. Included in the pattern is the replacement of a ferry, which had served for most of fifty years, by the bridge which now spans the river. They reflect with satisfaction on the building of the No. 9 hardsurfaced highway north from Drumheller and east past Hanna; all remember the day when Highway No. 56 was opened as a through road to Stettler and are well pleased with surfacing progress to date. Now hopes of an east-west road from the Morrin Corner across the bridge to some point to the west seems well in bounds of probability.

Set in the light of the picture so far presented we feel that a vast area on each side of the river has a common focal point and adequate access routes to the proposed parksite beside the river, not far from the recently completed bridge. The spot in question has long been used by many people on both sides of the river as a picnic site, camping centre and playground. The most recent addition to available facilities is the modern camp kitchen constructed near the bridge by the provincial government. All factors therefore now suggest that an increasing number of people, both local residents and those visiting from farther away, will spend some of their holidays in the park to be.

Development should proceed apace for many arrangements have already been completed. Land to be used as a parksite has been agreed on. Further development may include the improvement of the beach along a considerable stretch of the river, the building of an approach road to the centre of activities, and the provision of adequate sports facilities such as baseball diamonds and playgrounds. In due time it is altogether possible that an appropriate programme of tree planting and ornamental arrangement will be adopted.

The proposed parksite has a peculiarly happy location for it is surrounded by items that should be of interest to nearly everyone. Along the banks of the river are the curiously stratified layers of soil and rock formation telling the story of endless centuries of upheaval, of flooding, of deposition. Coulees lead away from the spot we have in mind to places where remains of dinosaurs abound—dinosaurs which were the dominant species of animal life in this part of the world for at least fifty millions of years. In places there are trees making shady arbours, in other places there are shallows along the river where tots may paddle in the water. As the park develops all these things will still be with us. In addition there will be a place to which all will want to return again and again, the young to wander, to run and play—the older folk to dream and recall the things which until recently were here but which now have passed away.

**Hi! He! Hi! Ho! To The Badlands We Go!**

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**GREETINGS FROM**

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## INDUSTRIAL LETTER

Dear Tourists:

### Re: INDUSTRIAL DRUMHELLER

Drumheller, since the turn of the 20th century has been a thriving coal mining metropolis. Drumheller has to date been chiefly an industrial town of primary industries. The economy of the district has been kept at a high standard by the coal fields, agricultural area, and more recently by the highly productive oil and natural gas fields in the immediate district.

The secondary industries presently in Drumheller consist of those industries required to maintain the coal industry and the needs of the population of the valley.

The second phase of industrial Drumheller has just come into being and will take the trend of serving the agricultural area by way of plants to process the agricultural products of the district and to supply the requirements of the agriculturists in the district.

Drumheller can be and will be in the not too distant future an Industrial mecca of Western Canada due to its God-given natural resources and exceptionally convenient location to service the Prairie Provinces and their ever increasing population. Drumheller's natural resources consist in part of coal (of the highest domestic quality), shale, bentonite, clays, gravel and sand, gas and oil, and the Red Deer River which is one of the West's few remaining unpolluted water supplies.

Drumheller is an established city with all of the desirable living conditions required by industries with complete Federal, Provincial and Municipal Government services of the highest standard, where both civic and provincial government welcome and assist industry.

Our transportation system leaves little to be desired as Drumheller is on the main line of the Canadian National Railways between Calgary and Saskatoon, daily return Dayliner service Drumheller to Edmonton, is serviced by the Canadian Pacific Railway and Alberta No. 9 Highway from Trans-Canada highway near Calgary to the Saskatchewan border, also Alberta Highways No. 10 and No. 56. Roads paved in all directions.

The telegraphic communications of both railways together with the Alberta Government Telephones, the Dinosaur Broadcasting Association and TV station CHCT Calgary, combined to equip Drumheller with one of the finest communication services available.

The industrialist establishing in Drumheller can feel confident that his labor force will find much satisfaction and contented living in Drumheller which has a School System next to none, medical and hospital facilities, a variety of well attended churches, lodges, service clubs, societies, recreational, cultural activities and shopping facilities reaching far beyond any city of comparable size in the great north-west.

To the manufacturer of food products Drumheller offers an abundance of livestock, hogs, poultry, market garden products (including cantelope, tomatoes, cucumbers, corn), grains of the highest milling and malting qualities, and a dexterous female labor force.

The citizens of Drumheller are proud of their prehistoric wonder-land and invite you to join us in work and play.

Yours very truly,

—C. L. SWAIN,  
Industrial Co-ordinator for  
City of Drumheller.

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THE DRUMHELLER MUSEUM IS THE IDEAL PLACE TO BEGIN  
YOUR TOUR OF THE DRUMHELLER BADLANDS.

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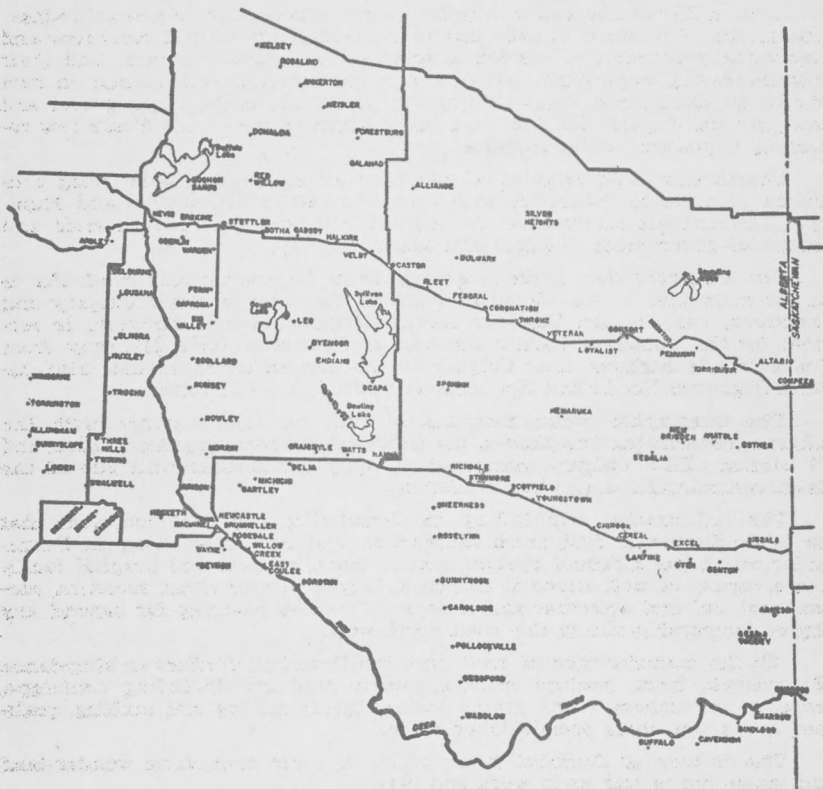
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## WORLD'S LARGEST LITTLE CHURCH

Your Little Church was built and placed on the Dinosaur Trail by the people of Drumheller and District for you and other travellers, as well as for themselves, to stop and rest and—perhaps, think a minute in quiet surroundings.

It's a very small but practical Little Church, and all denominations use and are invited to use it, seating six people at a time. It's tiny steeple houses a big bell, that once rang out from the top of a speeding C.P.R. steam engine as it raced its way across the prairies.

On the door, a small brass plaque, tells of an award won by the City of Drumheller for, shall we say "E" for Effort. The door itself, allows most people to enter without stooping. Each of the six small pews seats one person in comfort. The stained glass windows lend an atmosphere of quiet and peace. The resting pilgrim may choose a recording by a minister of his own faith or listen to a hymn recorded by choirs from our local churches.

The push-button recordings are played on a machine donated and maintained by the Whorlitzer Association of Alberta and the upkeep of the building is taken care of by local groups, and so, we wish no donations from our visitors.

The land on which the Little Church stands, is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Smith who one year ago celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary, and still live an active life at their home, within sight of the Little Church. On the same property, across the road the visitor will find a small refreshment booth and rest rooms, built to resemble hoodoos, built and operated by some of Mr. and Mrs. Smith's grandchildren.

To visit the Little Church, follow No. 9 Highway North out of Drumheller past the big model of a dinosaur and across Drumheller's new bridge across the Red Deer River. Turn left (west) two blocks past the bridge. You are now starting on the Dinosaur Trail, that threads its way through Midlandvale, past coal mines which have produced millions of tons of the best commercial coal. Some of the mines are still taking many tons a year, to be shipped east as far as Ontario and west to Vancouver Island. Driving on past one of the smallest railroad stations in the world (see Ripley) and please note: Watch out for the fast dayliner at that crossing.

The road now enters the Badlands, truly a "TV" setting for a real western. You might see real cowboys herding cattle, but they will not be wearing six guns, and any Indians you see will be tourists. Through hills carved out by glaciers and erosion, showing the cross section of the way nature has laid blankets of earth, rock, coal and sandstone over the beds of dinosaur bones, preserving them and many other fossils for those willing to hunt a little to find them and, with each passing year, nature with wind, rain and frost, uncovers a few more, for those that follow.

A few minutes drive brings you to the Little Church, where there is usu-

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ally plenty of parking space, but you may have to wait a short while as the church holds only a few at a time, but does accommodate about 50,000 visitors a year, since its official opening on July 9th, 1958, by the Honourable Gordon E. Taylor. The register book, inside the Little Church tells its own story. People from all over the world have signed it, and the people of Drumheller extend an invitation to you to honour us by signing this interesting book too.

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**THE  
MAYOR  
AND FAMILY  
AT THE  
"LITTLE  
CHURCH"**

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**DRUMHELLER**

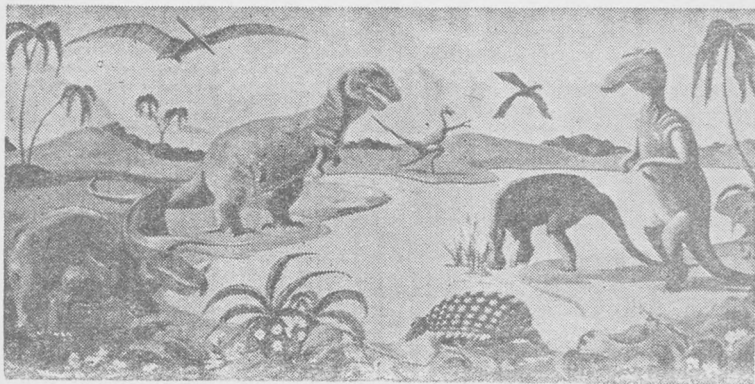
**ALBERTA**

## THE DINOSAURS OF THE BADLANDS

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This land of the dolomites, is an ideal location,  
To enjoy a most unusual and different vacation.  
The Drumheller Museum, without any doubt,  
Should be the first stop, on your carefully planned route.  
The Dinosaur Trail, known both near and far,  
Is the primitive home of the extinct Dinosaur.  
This Dinosaur region of prehistoric creatures,  
Is a valley of canyons, with distinctive features.  
Weird shaped hoodoos, both unique and rare,  
Are found in these badlands, almost everywhere.  
You'll see the 'World's Smallest Railway Station',  
Three miles West, is the exact location.  
The "Biggest Little Church", an attraction hard to beat,  
Is Canada's smallest chapel, where tourists all meet.  
'Pluto's Window' with its grand display,  
May be viewed by the public, any time of the day.  
This choice exhibit, includes a varied selection,  
Of fossils, bones, and a rock collection.  
The Suspension Bridge, another attraction we claim,  
Only five miles east, and Aerial is the name.  
The Horseshoe Canyon reveals a picturesque scene,  
Of a U-shaped gorge, with a deep ravine.  
The fossil hunter will have a lot of thrills,  
Discovering old relics in these strange eroding hills.  
There are cactus plants galore, also Juniper root,  
Nice mementos for you to carry home as loot.  
Rocks of every description you will surely admire,  
Souvenirs to take home if you so desire.  
This Valley of hills, we're sure you'll agree,  
Is a scenic wonder, and a must to see.

—Mrs. J. R. Nahornick



THE MURAL IN THE MUSEUM

## **EAST COULEE HOTEL**

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**Comfortable Rooms - Licensed**

**Tourists Welcome!**

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## ALL FIGURED OUT

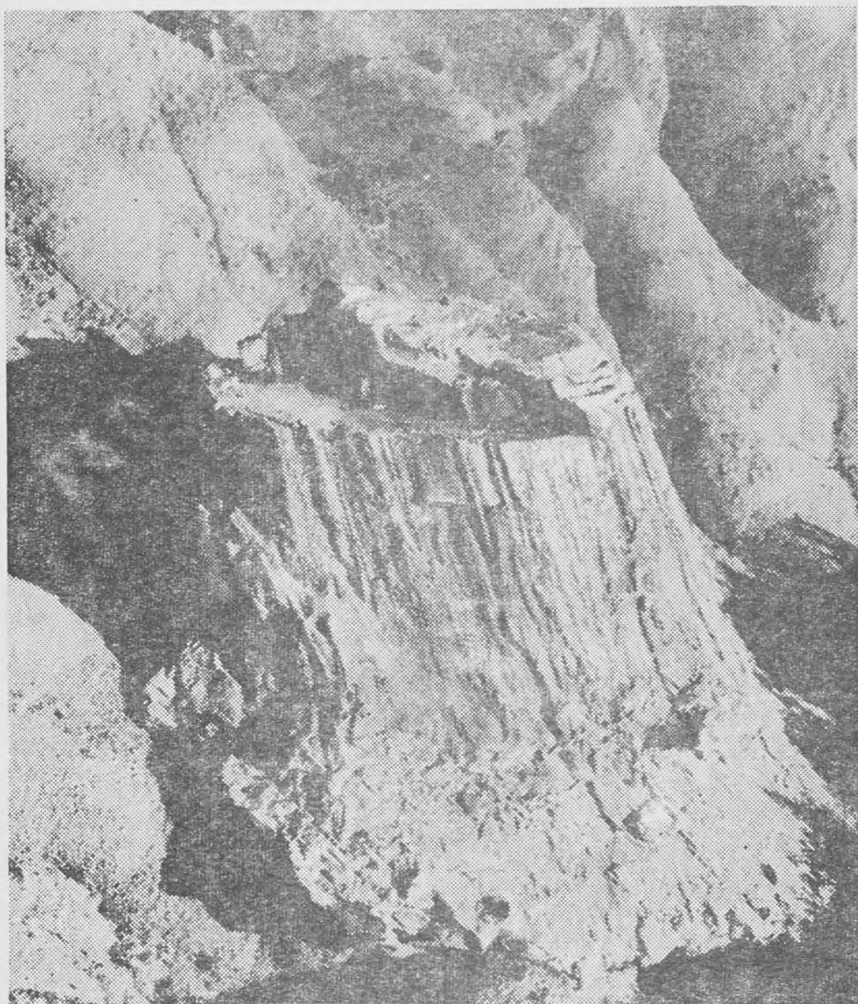
A small boy, accompanied by his parents, visited the Drumheller Museum recently.

When he came to the picture of the Hon. Gordon E. Taylor, Minister of Highways, unveiling the Dinosaur model of Tyrannosaurus Rex at the new bridge, and noticed Mr. Taylor in the act of pulling the cord and thus exposing the dinosaur to full view, the little fellow startled the crowd in the Museum with the remark: "See, Mother, he has him trained."

Mr. Taylor has held many different titles through the years, and he can now add to the list the title of "Dinosaur Trainer."

### DRUMHELLER—THE PREHISTORIC HOME OF THE DINOSAURS

Distance to Drumheller, 86 miles from Calgary. Take No. 1 Highway east onto Highway No. 9 (The Dinosaur Trail). Blacktop. Get local directions in Drumheller.



PETRIFIED TREE STUMP IN THE BADLANDS

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## **Invites New Industry**

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MODERN MANUFACTURING**

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learning and recreational facilities.**

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Direct Correspondence To:**

**Industrial Co-ordinator  
DRUMHELLER — ALBERTA**

## VALUE OF TOURIST BUSINESS

If a gold mine capable of producing \$70 million a year was discovered in Alberta's Rocky Mountains this province would attract the attention of the whole world. But the potential inflow of wealth to Alberta by way of the motor tourist traffic is even greater than that. Alberta has an opportunity of profiting through tourist traffic in a way that not many people here fully appreciate.

To the south of Canada lies the United States, a nation of 180 million people, the richest in the world, the average per capita income being in excess of \$2,000 a year. Four-fifths of all the automobiles in the world are owned in the United States and the people there are great travellers and great spenders.

Canada, and Alberta in particular, offers an attraction to the United States motorists. In the mighty Rockies which hem Alberta's western border and form a scenic playground of incomparable alpine grandeur, this province has an asset which should annually attract a greater number of United States tourists, and bring into this province many, many millions of dollars.

Tourist money permeates an economy to an unbelievable extent. It is not only the motels, hotels, restaurants, service stations and garages and stores which benefit. It has been estimated that in a good year visitors to this country consume four million pounds of butter, four million dozen eggs, eighteen million pounds of meat and other food products in proportion. That is important business for farm people.

The Alberta Motor Association, as a public-spirited body, is an important factor in the motor tourist trade. Visiting motorists are mostly members of motor associations in their own countries and look to the AMA for advice and direction; also help in time of trouble. A member of the American Automobile Association is entitled to the same benefits and privileges from the AMA as are obtainable from his own association at home. This is done through co-operative arrangement, a member of the Alberta Motor Association travelling in the United States being entitled to the same treatment from the AAA constituent associations there.

The AMA is carrying on a constant campaign to encourage motor tourism in this province. This is public-spirited work for the benefit of the entire province.

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## MUSEUM SOCIETY THANKS DONORS

Dr. Wesley R. Read, President of the Drumheller and District Museum Society wishes, upon behalf of the Society to gratefully acknowledge donation of the fixtures, equipment, services and material from the following citizens, firms and organizations:

Jessie Gouge Estate, two filing cabinets; Hooker Brothers, one large show case and one counter; Parsons and Sons, Roofing Contractors, roof repairs; Webb Distributors, paint on several occasions; Drumheller Municipal Hospital Board, two stand-up desks. Note: These are presently being converted to picture display purposes through the generous work of Mr. Alex Williams and Mr. Gildo Guidolin and will be in use during the early part of August.

Three more large display cases have now been moved into the Museum. These make a total of four cases built gratis of Mr. Blanchard Johnson. This is certainly an outstanding individual contribution of work to the Museum. These cases will gradually be brought into use during August to tell an improved story of the Natural History of the Drumheller District.

The Canadian Utilities Limited generously supplied trucks to move these cases to the Museum.

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**DRUMHELLER, ALBERTA**

# CHANCES STILL EXCELLENT OF FINDING OLD REMAINS

By ED GRAH

A prominent Canadian paleontologist said that the chances of finding more dinosaur remains in the Drumheller area are excellent and will continue to be so as long as erosion by the Red Deer River and its tributaries continues to expose rocks.

W. Langston of Ottawa, curator of vertebrate paleontology at the National Museum of Canada was in Calgary to attend the ninth annual field conference of the Alberta Society of Petroleum Engineers. The four-day conference attended by 480 delegates, wound up Saturday with a field trip and a barbecue.

Mr. Langston said in an interview, "As far as dinosaurs are concerned the Drumheller area is one of the most interesting and prolific producers in the world. It has only one runner-up — the Steepleville region around Brooks," Mr. Langston said.

The edmontosaurus, latest discovery by the museum in the area will not be prepared for display for some time to come, Mr. Langston said. This specimen is still in storage.

There are a number of similar reptiles already on exhibit in various museums and there seems to be no pressing urge to develop this one. But the museum has to collect the specimens whenever and wherever they are located because otherwise the weather takes them away.

If not needed they may remain in the museum's storage for many years. "We have specimens in Ottawa collected in Alberta as long ago as 1912," Mr. Langston explained.

Mr. Langston announced interest is now centred on Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia, both considered promising areas for specimens.

Interest in Saskatchewan is sparked by recent finds in the badlands along the South Saskatchewan River between South Saskatchewan Landing and Riverhurst.

The situation in Saskatchewan is that very little had ever been found before. But virtually everything found in recent explorations is interesting. The museum collected parts of skeletons of large marine lizards some of them possibly 30 feet in length and other peculiar creatures known as plesiosaurs.

They have tremendously long snake-like necks. The section of a neck found suggests an animal of about 40 feet. These ancient reptiles were fish-catching creatures with broad heavy bodies. They had evolved paddles for swimming instead of feet. They lived about 70,000,000 years ago.

The national museum is exploring the area in co-operation with the Museum of Natural History in Regina.

The Canadian fossil record in the west is essentially a record of the closing phases of the ancient reptiles. Until recently no record of earlier phases of ancient reptiles has been found anywhere in Canada.

But during the last 1½ years interesting discoveries have been made in Nova Scotia. Mr. Langston will spend at least a season there exploring the situation. "I will be in Alberta again briefly next summer for a few weeks and then move back into the Maritimes," Mr. Langston said.

—The Calgary Albertan

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## ... AND THE BOOKS WERE OPENED

Since the publication of the 1959 Badlands book, containing a very clear description of the history of the Drumheller Valley, many local residents have been asking for information regarding the beginning of local government for the area.

Answering these enquiries we have gone through some of the oldest books in City Hall until we came to a handwritten Minute Book dated 1913. The interesting business appearing on page one of that book reads as follows:

"Minutes of first council meeting of the Village of Drumheller, June 9th, 1913.

**Meeting opened** at 9:45 p.m., appointing Reeve.

**Proposed by Mr. Sutherland** that Mr. Clarkson be appointed Reeve for Village of Drumheller. Opposed by Mr. Greentree. Accepted by Mr. Clarkson.

**Appointing Sec.Treas.** Moved by Mr. Greentree that Mr. W. E. McDonald be appointed Sec.-Treas. for Village. Amended by Mr. Clarkson that Mr. G. Van-orsdale be appointed Sec.-Treas. Seconded by Mr. Sutherland that Mr. Van-orsdale be appointed. Mr. Greentree opposed amendment.

**Bond stated by Council against Sec.-Treas.** Moved by Mr. Sutherland that the Council pay fee of Bond. Seconded by Mr. Clarkson. (Stroked out and Greentree written on top). Proposed by Mr. Greentree that amount of Bond be \$1,000.00. Accepted by Council.

**Salary for Sec.-Treas.** Moved by Mr. Clarkson that salary of \$10.00 per month from Village and \$25.00 for school work. Seconded by Mr. Sutherland.

Moved by Mr. Greentree that the man who does any work on street or townsite be instructed to not disturb any lot pegs. Seconded by Mr. Sutherland. Unanimously carried.

Proposed by Mr. Greentree that Mr. Gillespie be appointed Sec.-Treas. for Village of Drumheller at a wage of \$25.00 for balance of 1913. Mr. Sutherland moved this be adjourned 'till Wednesday night at 8 o'clock.

Thos. P. Greentree, Chairman."

Council then and now, shows a steady likeness. Namely that of disagreeing. The high wages offered and the disturbing of lot pegs, etc., also reflect upon problems currently confronting our council. One notable improvement is the fact that copies of minutes are typewritten today and can be easily read.

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### DRUMHELLER VALLEY

By Grace Aitkens, Namaka, Alta.

Here are the mounds no plow can turn,  
To bare the treasure there.  
Their breasts are bulged with volumes  
Untouched by wind or air.  
When nature turned their ferns to coal  
God thought of every need;  
He replaced some with curios  
On which man's soul might feed.  
The trees were his special care,  
And loath to let them die;  
He smiled and smoothed a lovely leaf  
And let it petrify.

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**DRUMHELLER, ALBERTA**

## MUSEUM SOCIETY RECEIVES LETTER OF APPRECIATION

The following letter of appreciation from Mrs. Grace Aitkens of Namaka, Alta., to the Drumheller and District Museum Society is one of the very fine letters the Museum Society received from those who visit the Drumheller Museum and the Drumheller Badlands. After penning her impressions of her recent visit, Mrs. Aitkens, who is a poetess, summed up her impressions of the famous Drumheller Badlands in a poem, which it is a pleasure to publish:

Namaka, Alberta  
August 13th, 1960

President, Drumheller and District Museum Society,  
Drumheller, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

August 11th, my husband and I, together with my niece and her husband of Flint, Michigan, spent the day at Drumheller. We visited the valley, the smallest church in the world and the hoodoos but the highlight was the new museum which all of us thoroughly enjoyed.

We were enticed to enter on seeing five, huge, petrified tree stumps with roots in front of it. These we were told had been put there of late having been found 200 feet down in a coal mine. The coal was then being removed from the surface by means of a hose.

Upon going inside we were impressed with the wonderful specimens and all agreed they were intriguing.

Mrs. Robertson was most gracious, explaining many of the formations and giving us literature on them. She was tastefully dressed and adorned with necklace, ear-rings and ring made from dinosaur bone. She told us to notice when visiting St. George's Island, Calgary, that all the dinosaur specimens came from Drumheller. We were told that a dinosaur skeleton was being assembled at Ottawa and would be placed in Drumheller museum.

The giant, petrified snail was interesting as were many stones. The imprint of a tree leaf upon a bone was another wonder which we enjoyed.

I was surprised at the many beautiful relics already on display as we were told this is a new venture. Children have found many of the relics and brought them to Mrs. Robertson who is such an enthusiastic overseer that I am sure this museum will grow and enlarge. Drumheller is fortunate to have Mrs. Robertson in charge.

We wish to thank your Mrs. Robertson for her interest and her kindness and hope to bring more guests sometime in the future. It was well worth the time we spent visiting here.

Yours sincerely,  
—Mrs. Grace Aitkens

## BADLANDS BOOKLET HAS WIDE CIRCULATION

An example of the wide circulation of the newest edition of the book "The Badlands of the Red Deer River", edited by T. B. McFarlane, is the request from the City of Philadelphia for a copy of the booklet.

Philadelphia wishes the book for their reference library for consultation and reference on the economy of foreign countries as an aid to businessmen, importers and exporters, as well as university students who use the library.

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## BADLANDS REVEAL SECRETS PRIMEVAL

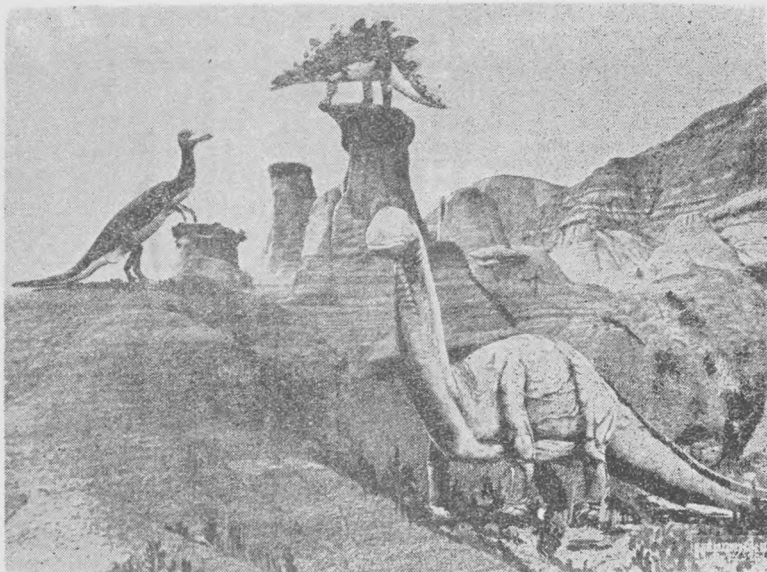
Like a deep scar cleft in the flat prairie country of southeastern Alberta is the Red Deer Valley Badlands area. The Badlands stretch from a point near Three Hills almost to the Saskatchewan border. An astonishing array of plant and animal life, both living and long extinct, is contained in its 300-odd square miles. Weird topography lends a definite note of fascination.

From this valley came the most complete remains of the Dinosaurian age known in the world today. Since exploitation began in 1912 more than 30 complete skeletons of primeval fauna have been unearthed as prize museum pieces. Petrified and fossilized remains of this mysterious age are strewn over the valley floor. Some specimens hang partly exposed along the crumbling hillsides. At one point remains of a petrified forest is visible, with gigantic tree stumps embedded in coal seams.

Visitors have taken away countless souvenirs such as pieces of petrified bone and trees. The practice is still allowed, but no digging is permitted, nor are articulated skeletons allowed to be touched.

Some living remnants of the semi-tropical forms of life which flourished in this part of the country millions of years ago are still in evidence. Here, too, is where the semi-tropical yucca plant grows. An interesting characteristic of this growth is that plants are propagated only through fertilization by the yucca moth.

Ravages of time have created a weird splendor in topography. The valley presents a turbulent maze of dolomites, buttes and other foundations, "hoodoos". Some of these eroded formations are 120 feet in height.



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## **APPRECIATION**

This is the Fifth Annual of the Badlands of the Red Deer River. I wish to thank the advertisers for their continued support, also the Alberta Travel Bureau and the City of Drumheller for their co-operation which has made it possible to increase the circulation three hundred percent.

To those who have given their time and knowledge in preparing the reading material, I wish to extend my appreciation. The information contained is greatly appreciated by tourists, and requested by universities, schools, libraries, etc., from coast to coast in Canada and the U.S.A.

The distribution is through the advertisers, Drumheller and District Museum, Alberta Travel Bureau, Calgary Tourist and Information Bureau, Calgary Tourist and Convention Association and Tourist Bureaus, including in part Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Fort Macleod, Edmonton, Banff and Saskatoon, Sask. The mailing list has grown rapidly and covers a vast area.

The advertisers will appreciate your patronage. They will be delighted to advise you on the many points of interest which could add much pleasure to your visit.

The Drumheller Museum is the ideal place to begin your tour of the Drumheller Badlands.

Sincerely yours,  
—T. B. McFARLANE

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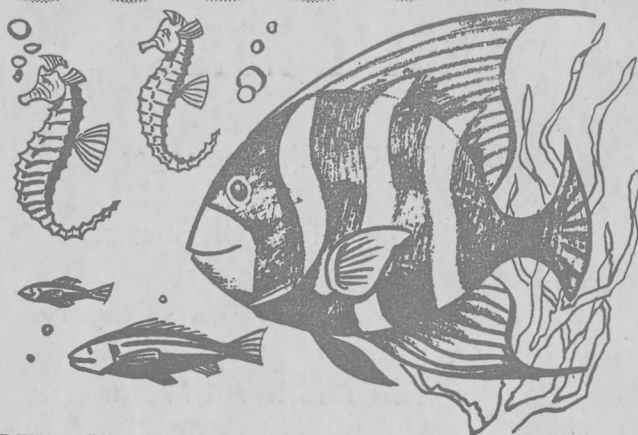
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